

meeting topics furnishes a very helpful Bible study for the mid-week service. Last but not least, in "Our Bible School" department we begin this week outline studies on the Minor Prophets, prepared by Brother Miller. The introductory paper appears in this issue. Surely there is no want of opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with the Word of God.

THE revival season has now fairly opened and already reports of successful work are coming to this office. While we believe and so teach, that the revival season should last twelve months in the year, we are not blind to the fact that some seasons of the year present more favorable opportunities for such work than others; and now while this season is at hand let it be a season of prayer, earnest study of the Word and mighty power with the Lord for the conversion of souls. As a rule church work lags during the hot summer months, but it affords us pleasure to say to our readers that the season just closed was more than usually fruitful, not only in accessions to the church but especially so in the development of new and systematic methods of church work, in the manifest longings for a deeper spirituality and personal piety and a more thorough and complete surrender to the will of God. In these things let us continue and abound.

#### ASHLAND COLLEGE

Will the College debt be paid? When? When will school open? These and similar questions we have been asked repeatedly within the last two or three months. What shall we say? As a rule our answer is as follows: "We are now raising the apportionment and expect to have the debt paid before the year 1898 dawns upon us." There yet remain seven or eight weeks of the old year, and candidly Brethren the entire debt should be paid before we begin another year. Why not? We can do it and be no poorer at the beginning of the new year than we now are. Do you say you have lost confidence in the institution? Well, what if you have. We owe a certain amount of money and confidence has nothing whatever to do with the payment of this debt. Let us pay it and begin the new year with a clean record. To talk about mismanagement in the past has nothing to do with what we are now trying to do, that is pay the debt. Clear the institution of its indebtedness and then talk about its management. There is nothing to manage at present so far as running the school is concerned. There is no school in progress. The church is not trying to run a school just now; it is trying to pay its debts and is calling upon you to pay your share of it. Come now, like Brethren, let us meet the obligation, pay the debt, then talk about running the school. Who *could* run a school successfully with a heavy debt hanging over it? Nobody else could, why do you expect the Brethren church to do so. Have you

ever tried to run a farm covered with a mortgage? How did it go? We are attempting but one thing at present, and that is to pay the debt. Do not for the church's sake, for your sake individually, for God's sake, drag the debt over into the new year. *Pay it now.*

#### A NEW INVENTION

It was Solomon who said there was nothing new under the sun and for the time that no doubt was strictly true. But now it is announced that an electric contribution box is among the latest products of a Connecticut Yankee's fertile brain. To this an exchange very pertinently remarks: "Now let him invent a process by which to shock the nickles, dimes, and dollars out of stingy people's pockets and land them securely in the box, and perplexed church treasuries all over the world will unanimously vote him a gold medal." This is just the kind of a thing the Brethren church needs to pay off the College debt and fill the treasury of the National Mission Board. As for the box we do not care so much about that; we have boxes (empty) enough. The old collection basket or plate will do for us. What we want is not a box to hold the money, but some invention that will bring the wherewith to fill the boxes we now have. Since we come to think of it there is such a thing in existence somewhere but too many people are afraid of it. The apostles used the Holy Spirit for this purpose but it seems that people no longer trust to that article. May he, the Holy Spirit, take possession of our hearts and there will be no need of an electric box to take up the money.

#### THE ORGAN IN THE CHURCH

The *Gospel Messenger* commends the zeal and sound judgment of the Free Methodists for the action taken at a Conference recently held at Freeport, Ill., in suspending a pastor from the functions of the ministry for six months for having permitted the use of an organ in the regular services in his church. For our part we see nothing worthy of commendation in this action. The zeal of these brethren may be commendable, but it is zeal without knowledge. If the organ is such a worldly instrument as the *Messenger* would have us believe, a thing unfit to be used in praising God, we greatly wonder that the *Messenger* family permits hundreds of its members to use such an instrument in their homes in leading sacred music. The church is a sacred place, it is true, but so is the home. Is not the home a place of worship? Is there not an altar in the home of God's people? If a Bishop in that church may have an organ in his home and have music teachers come to that home to give his daughters lessons on the organ, and if the instrument is used in leading sacred music as we know it is, then what objection can there be to its use in the church? Not only

are organs so used but pianos of the finest make. May we praise God acceptably with an organ in the home and not in the house of God? The *Messenger* says: "The Free Methodists are in accord with the Brethren, as well as the New Testament, on the instrumental music question." By the Brethren he means the German Baptists, and that the Free Methodists are in accord with them on the subject of organs in the church we will not dispute but we emphatically deny that they are in accord with the teachings of the Word in forbidding the use of an organ in public worship. Where does the Word forbid the use of such an instrument? People who profess to stick so close to the Word should have at least some ground for their belief which rests in the Word. If the New Testament forbids the use of an organ in the church we should like to know where to find that passage. Will the *Messenger* enlighten us? Speaking of the various ways of praising God the Psalmist says: "Praise him with stringed instruments and organs."

#### THE FIVE HUNDRED

The list is still going up tho not quite rapidly enough to reach 500 by December 1. With the enlarged paper and the dollar inducement our friends should have no trouble to increase the list very rapidly. Let us unite in making the best use of the month that yet remains in which new subscriptions can be added at one dollar. Following is the list since last reported:

Hannah Snowberger	1	Mrs. D E Ronk,	1
C. M. Good,	1	4 25 cent subs.,	1
J. H. Swihart,	3	W. H. Miller,	1
J. B. Replogle,	1	J. W. Kisling,	2
J. M. Tombaugh,	1	J. M. Olinger,	3
Dr. E. J. Worst,	5	E. B. Vickroy,	1
J. M. Murray,	1	S. M. Good,	1
J. G. Nininger,	5	Mrs. Richard Curtis,	1
P. M. Swinehart,	1	A. R. Bemenderfer,	2
J. B. Garver,	1	H. M. Oberholtzer,	1
D. E. Ronk,	1		—
J. L. Kimmel,	2	Total,	43
A. J. Hixon,	3	Previously reported,	127
S. P. Fogle,	2		—
D. A. Hopkins,	1	To date,	170

#### TO AROUSE AND CONCENTRATE

The editor of the *Christian Advocate*, New York, gives some practical advice to pastors and churches in a recent issue of that paper. The application is not to the Methodist church only, but to ministers of the gospel generally, and to other churches as well. We commend the editorial to all our readers, ministers and laymen, especially so at this season of the year. There is a great work before us. We can make the coming winter fruitful for the Lord in the conversion of souls and the development of a higher Christian life. Let us "arouse and concentrate." We give the editorial in full as follows:

The pressing duty of every pastor at this time is to arouse his people to a sense of